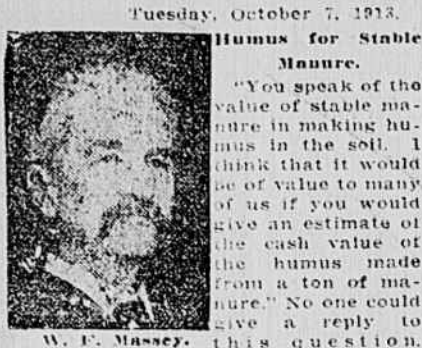


# WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY



**Humus for Stable Manure.**  
Tuesday, October 7, 1913.  
"You speak of the value of stable manure in making humus in the soil. I think that it would be of value to you if you would give an estimate of the cash value of the humus made from a ton of manure." No one could give a reply to this question. What the value of the humus-making material in a ton of manure is will depend on the amount of organic matter contained in the manure, and this varies a great deal. We want the organic matter, not so much for its manurial value as for its influence on the physical condition of the soil, its character for retaining moisture, and its mellowing influence on the soil, making it warmer and earlier. Hence it is impossible to place a cash value on it. One thing is certain, however, that the amount of organic decay in the soil, which as a matter of convenience we call humus, though chemically it is not what would be called humus in the laboratory, has a great influence on the productivity of the soil, and the efficiency of the fertilizing material we apply to it.  
Fresh soils, newly cleared from the forest, abound in vegetable decay, and are the most productive, because the soil is then a living soil, full of bacterial life that is bringing into use materials otherwise unavailable. When this humus, through injudicious cultivation, is oxidized completely, and the soil is left simply the old mixture of sand and clay, it is dead soil, for the bacterial life has been starved out, and the restoration of the vegetable matter becomes of prime importance if we are to restore the productivity of the soil. We cannot estimate its cash value, but we know that it is the chief thing to be sought in the successful improvement of our old cultivated lands.

**Limestone.**  
"Will ground limestone soften or mellow clay land as well as burnt lime, and are either as good as wood ashes?" I do not think that the ground rock will have the same effect as the calculating clay as the burnt lime. With in fact, I prefer burnt lime to the limestone. You can get nothing better than hardwood ashes either to sweeten the soil or to furnish plant food like potash. The only difficulty in getting enough of them at a price that will pay to use them. Hardwood ashes will carry about 35 to 40 per cent of lime in a very good shape, and will furnish about 5 per cent of potash if they have been kept dry, and a small percentage of phosphoric acid.

**Lima Beans Too Rank.**  
"My lima beans are in four-foot rows, three feet in the row and the vines are very dense. I imagine that they would yield better if the vines could get to them more. Don't you think that I could get a better yield by planting them ten to twelve feet apart and put bush beans between them?" The large white lima beans are not so productive as we come South as they are in the North. The thick Potato Lima bean much better. But you are doubtless right in thinking that more direct sunlight would help them. I plant mine in rows about four feet apart, and like yours, three feet in the row. But I do not grow them on poles, but stretch chicken wire netting along the rows five feet wide, setting it a foot from the ground, and they seem to do much better there, where clinging to poles in a mass. But for yield I find the Bush Forkhook bean very productive, and needs no support. Doubtless if you would adopt my plan and put the rows eight or ten feet apart and then plant the Forkhook between you would get more from the limping beans. Try the wire; it beats poles a long way, and is cheaper in the long run. I use it for all climbers.

**Fruit on the Coast.**  
Elizabeth City County: "I am contemplating planting apples and pears with plums and peaches as fillers, intercropped with small fruits. I am told that fruit will not thrive in this section, but am not convinced that such is the case, for I see some fine apple trees and pears. The main thing I have noticed is lack of care and cultivation. The question is to my mind if fruit will not thrive here, why, since there is no effect without a cause. If you think that fruit can be made profitable what varieties of apples, peaches and pears would you advise?" I have never seen a good peach produced in your neighborhood, and have tried to grow them years ago at Old Point. They will grow and fruit, but the fruit would hardly be identified by those familiar with the variety elsewhere. The same is true of climate seems to be against them. But you can grow apples of the summer and fall varieties, but hardly any good winter keepers, as they will mature too early. You can grow as fine pears as are grown anywhere, and can grow scap-ping grapes splendidly. You can grow strawberries, blackberries and raspberries well. For the commercial production of fruit it is hardly the best section. I believe that summer apples and pears can be made commercially profitable there if properly cared for. I have grown as fine pears there as I have ever seen anywhere. The little Siskel pear grows to a larger size than any other. Then, as I have said, you can grow peach trees, and if you get fruit worth eating you will do more than I did. I would not advise extensive planting till you have tested the matter. There is a good home market all around you for any fruit produced. For apples, plant Yellow Transparent, and Red Astrakhan for early summer, Grimes Golden and Jonathan for fall, and Virginia Beauty may thrive there, or pears plant Leonora, Maiden's Seedling, Beurre d'Angouleme, Sheldon and Lawrence. For peaches try Greenchore, Albion and Ray. These thrive near the ocean here, and may do there as well as anywhere.

**A Deaf and Dumb Farmer.**  
Warwick County: "I am a deaf and dumb farmer. Was for twenty years a newspaper man. Never lived on a farm till I came here to take charge of old boom seed fields. Got hold of Thomas phosphate, and think that there is nothing like it. I read your articles in The Times-Dispatch as regularly as I say my prayers. Got them all cut out. Make many mistakes, but do not regret them. Am a book farmer and glad of it. Cut and shock my corn for. I was raised up in Clark County, the land of bob-tailed horses and blue grass. Made a mistake last fall in trying to dry out my

big crop of sweet potatoes in a basement room. Put them on the concrete floor with bags under them, burned a couple of tons of hard coal for two weeks. The potatoes appeared to shrivel. Put them in a big bin a foot from the floor, but somehow they heated and rotted. Basement has two long steam pipes uncovered and seldom gets less than 50 degrees. Want to try it again this fall. Probably the error was in putting them on the floor. Should have been in crates probably. Prof. T. C. Johnson, of the experiment station, says barrels, which will prepare land well and drill in oats with grass and clover seed, and will also sow some winter barley and vetch. Expended to sow crimson clover with Thomas phosphate and potash in the corn, but the big storm laid the corn down, so I could not get through it. Rank grass and weeds there now, and corn cut and shocked. Am now going to sow alfalfa hay to sell the farmers who laugh at my corn shocks. On some new land taken in, will sow a heavy crop of peas and soy beans. Hog raising daily while we are waiting for the State Agricultural Department to send a tinner after \$20 worth of serum ordered by wire and paid for, instead of sending duplicate they trace while the hogs are here. I am glad to know that a book farmer is making any sort of a thing out of his potatoes. The first thing is proper handling in the field, and avoiding any bruising. Do not haul in bulk from the field. If you can get the open side, ventilated barrels in Norfolk, put them in the barrels in the field, and then move them in the basement, elevated a little off the floor, and run the heat on them till dry. Then if the room does not get over 50 degrees they should keep all winter. I could prefer to use the slatted vegetable crates to barrels, as you can pile these so that the air will circulate all around them. Or you can use the half-barrel baskets that can be easily gotten in Norfolk. Any sort of a thing of the kind will be better than putting in bulk, as they can be brought from the field and stored without bruising. How that you will continue to show the farmers down there how to improve their lands and raise forage so they will not have to depend on pulling blades. Land in that section can be brought to a high state of production, and a good object lesson before the farmers will help the entire county. You can get any kind of packages from the Virginia Manufacturing Co., at Suffolk.

**Has More Feed Than He Knows How to Use.**  
Nansemond County: "I have followed your instructions all the way through my new farming venture, and have so much feed that I do not know what to do with it. You advise feeding it, but I have but three mules and raised goats enough for them. To say nothing of the thousands of pounds of hay already cut, and a car load more to come in, and this is why I asked you about selling the shredded stover. Will corn stover shredded keep in large stacks and not mold? It he he he. My barn will not begin to hold all the forage I have. I have twenty tons of gum wood ashes, and am getting 1,000 pounds every week. They seem to be strong with something like lime in them. What can I mix with them to make a good fertilizer? Would mixing kaint or acid phosphate with them increase their value? If I had that feed I would buy some cattle and feed them this winter, and sell them in the spring. They might not pay more than the feed would bring, but they will leave a lot of manure for the and. Shredded corn stover will keep in racks if stacked clear of the ground. The outside will damage a little, but the bulk will be all right.

When a farmer raises such a quantity of feed it means that he should have the cattle to eat it, and situated where you are, so convenient to the cities around Hampton Roads, there is always a sale for beef cattle, and growing the feed means that it should be fed on the place if you are to get the best results from it. It is the lime in the ashes that makes them caustic, and acid phosphate mixed with them would be reverted and made less available. The best use to make of the ashes is to put them on the land at rate of half a ton to a ton an acre. They will help very greatly in keeping the soil sweet, and the potash in them will make it need less to buy kaint.

Therefore, with such a fertilizer at hand, and all you will need on crops where peas and clover have been grown will be acid phosphate. But you must remember that the mere growing of peas and clover on land and selling the crop will not pay you, and you must get the full value of the peas and clover. They must be used, either as manure direct or by feeding and returning the manure to the land that grew the forage.

**Fall Plowing.**  
"Will it pay to plow corn stubble land in the fall?" I suppose that you next spring and will further run down the land. If you had peas in the corn it would have paid well to have disked them down and sown crimson clover seed on the land. Fall plowing of clay soil will mellow it, but it will not let it till in the winter rains unless you have a cover crop of some green growth on the land. What you need is to practice a good rotation of crops and always have a winter cover of clover on the land. If your land is steep and is inclined to wash a deep plowing and subsoiling in the fall will be a great help, and you can now move as a winter cover. But what you should have after corn is winter grain, either oats or wheat, and follow these with peas for hay, and small grain again on the pea stubble again followed by peas and these by crimson clover on which the farm manure is spread in winter, and all turned over for corn in spring. In short, you need to go to farming.

**Fertilizer for Lettuce.**  
Please tell me the best fertilizer for lettuce, and how much to use, and also which is the best and most profitable garden pea for market. The lettuce growers in Eastern North Carolina fill their frames with old horse manure. They then set the plants, and as soon as they are well started they apply between the rows a high-grade fertilizer at rate of four pounds an acre. It has been found that in making the best heads of lettuce both manure and fertilizer are needed, and while fairly good lettuce can be made with manure or with both, if you have the manure use phosphate eight parts cottonseed meal and three parts muriate of potash, and use 100 pounds an acre. The best and most profitable garden peas are the late ones that are not suited for the early market. For the early crop plant the Norpareil or Alaska.

## TO SUE NEW HAVEN; WILL COMPROMISE

Federal Government Would Separate Trolley, Steamship and Subsidiary Holdings.

### BRING ACTION IN NEW YORK

Government Prefers That Point to Boston on Account of Possible Sentiment for Road.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Washington, October 6.—A suit to strip the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad of its trolley, steamship and subsidiary holdings under the Sherman antitrust act will be filed in New York within a few days, Attorney-General McKeeney also has under consideration criminal proceedings against the directors of the corporation which will probably be contained in a supplementary bill of pleas.

Officials of the Department of Justice tonight admitted that the Attorney-General had decided to proceed at once against the offending New Haven, only waiting for the proper drafting of the legal papers.

**First Wilson Antitrust Suit.**  
This will be the first important antitrust suit filed by the Wilson administration, and every effort will be made to push it to a successful issue.  
Boston was the city originally selected for the scene of Federal attack. Representations were made to the Attorney-General, however, that sentimental considerations of the case might be given in Boston by reason of the corporation's vast holdings in New England. New York is regarded as neutral ground where the prosecution of the trust will be unhampered.

**Willing to Compromise.**  
In making known the government's decision to proceed against the New York, New Haven and Hartford, Attorney-General McKeeney stated that compromise by the railroad had been looked for.  
"We would be pleased to settle this affair, of course, without a law suit," he said. "Even now if the company will agree to meet the requirements of the Department of Justice a decree will be entered." It was admitted, however, that no word has been received from President Elliott or any official of the New Haven looking toward a compromise.

**Fertilizer Men Meet at Old Point**  
Members of National and Southern Associations in Annual Convention.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Old Point Comfort, Va., October 6.—The twentieth annual convention of the National Fertilizer Association, the annual meeting of the Southern Fertilizer Association and the third annual exhibition of fertilizer machinery, plant equipment, materials and allied trades, which will be held at the Chamberlin Hotel this week, will draw a large gathering. More than 600 members are expected to be in attendance, representing every State of the Union as well as London and Honolulu.

At the opening business session Tuesday morning Governor William Hodges Mann, of Virginia, after a few words of welcome, will make an address on the future of the fertilizer industry. Dr. Frank E. Cameron, of the Department of Agriculture, will give a talk on agriculture during the morning session Wednesday. Other prominent speakers will be A. F. Levey, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, and Dr. E. C. Kilsore, chief chemist of North Carolina. Besides the routine business of the association, a program has been arranged for the entertainment committee, consisting of a number of excursions to points of interest, a reception, dance and bridge party for the women attending.

A dress parade at Fortress Monroe has been ordered by Colonel Haynes for Tuesday afternoon in honor of the visitors. A chorus of several hundred students from the Hampton Agricultural and Normal Institute for Negroes and Indians, will give a concert Tuesday at the Chamberlin.

As the guests of the F. S. Royster Gunno Company, of Norfolk, the members of the associations will go Wednesday to the steamer to Cape Henry, where one of Virginia's famous oyster roasts will be given.

## HEAVY BURDENS ON RURAL ROUTES

One Carrier Finds 750 Pounds of Chestnuts for His Ricketty Hack.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Monterey, Va., October 6.—Avoiding himself of the new regulations, village merchants by parcel post, thus getting this perishable product of the Alleghenies to market without paying the usual rates, and before the usual slump strikes the market.

On Saturday last the aged carrier on the star route running from the Pierce Station found 750 pounds of chestnuts ready for his ricketty hack when he drove up to the village post-office. The local merchants had them in parson-cotton bags of the required capacity, and the additional burden made the shoe-sucking for the rest of the journey, thirty-eight miles.

Such privileges may have been foreseen by Uncle Sam's soldiers at Washington, but it does without saying that contractors on the mountain routes did not contemplate the possibility of the new service.

The one of the mails in the marketing of the chestnuts, already spoken of, and Richmond being within the zone limit of the poultry-raising sections of the western border, lovers of the national bird may find their chests in anticipation of the fat-flesh specimens that may be sent in case of Uncle Sam's servants.

## MEMBER OF BAND MUST FACE TRIAL

Edward Hatton, of National Soldiers' Home, Indicted by Grand Jury.

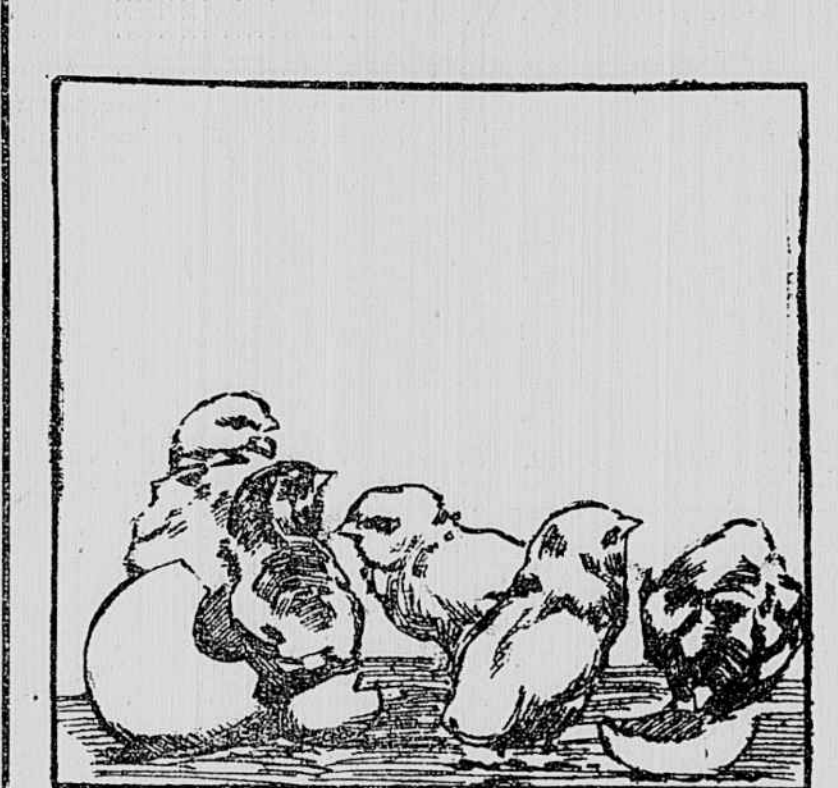
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Hampton, Va., October 6.—Edward Hatton, a member of the National Soldiers' Home Band, was indicted today by the grand jury in the Circuit Court for attempting a criminal assault upon Mrs. William Croston, wife of the chief engineer of the Newport News and Old Point Railroad, and Electric Company. Hatton claims to have a wife and son living in Florida. His case will be heard during the week by Judge Robinson.

# Only a Few Weeks More to Solve Contest Pictures

Seventy-seventh and last picture will appear..... Saturday, October 11  
Last day to buy Answer Books, Pictures or Catalogues..... Saturday, October 25  
First day for sending or bringing in sets..... Monday, October 27  
All sets must be in by 6 P. M..... Saturday, November 1

Better get into this game to-day. You have plenty of time left to solve the pictures, and you can get the first seventy free with the Catalogue and Answer Book. Clip the remaining seven out of the paper from day to day.

The Times-Dispatch's Great  
\$1200.00 Gold Booklovers' Contest  
Picture No. 73 Date, October 7th



What Book Does This Picture Represent?  
Write Title and Name of Author in Form Below

Title .....

Author .....

Your Name .....

Street and Number .....

City or Town .....

TOTAL NUMBER OF PICTURES, 77. Contest began July 27th. Each day a different picture appears in this space. Cut them out. Save them until the last picture appears on October 11th. Don't send in partial lists. Wait until you have all the answers to the 77. Read Rules, Daily Story and Special Announcements in another part of this paper. It will help you win a prize. Extra pictures and coupons of any date that have appeared may be had at 2c. Enter to-day without registering your name. Merely Save Pictures and Coupons as they appear.

THIS IS A SAMPLE OF THE  
**Booklovers' Answer Book**  
INSTRUCTIONS and EXPLANATIONS  
PASTE PICTURE BELOW THIS LINE  
This Page Is For Puzzle No. 38  
INSTRUCTIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Read the Contest rules in our paper. You will then know the number of puzzles that will be published during the contest, also how many answers you may submit to each one.

As each puzzle appears in the paper, cut it out. Try it neatly around the heavy dotted lines, attach same carefully on this sheet.

Each puzzle is numbered. When you have attached a line in this space, study it carefully, and submit your answers on the page below.

In the space on the page below is plenty of room for submitting one or as many replies to this puzzle as the rules of the Contest allow.

USE THIS ORDER BLANK FOR CATALOGUE  
If you cut this order form, fill it out and send or bring it in with the sum designated, you will receive the Official Copyrighted Contest Catalogue of about 5,000 book titles, and seven certificates redeemable for the first thirty-five pictures in the contest. In the catalogue are all the correct titles to the seventy-seven pictures. Catalogue, 35 cents at this office, 40 cents by mail.

Do Not Send Stamps or Silver. Send Check or Money Order.

Booklovers' Contest Editor,  
The Times-Dispatch:  
Inclosed find 40 cents, for which send me a Booklovers' Contest Catalogue of about 5,000 book titles, and seven certificates redeemable for the first thirty-five pictures.

Name.....

Street and No.....

City..... State.....

The principal features in connection with this contest are copyrighted by the Booklovers' Contest Co., San Francisco, Cal.

## What the Contest Is

It consists of seventy-seven pictures, one published each day in this paper, and each picture representing the title of a book. You simply tell what book titles each picture represents, and when all seventy-seven have been published, send in your set of answers. You will find this an easy, simple game, and the rewards are large. And you get seventy of the pictures published FREE with the Contest Catalogue and Answer Book. Clip the remaining seven out of the paper from day to day.

START TO-DAY. YOU CAN WIN.



Third Prize is \$150 in Gold.  
Fourth Prize is \$100 in Gold.  
Fifth Prize is \$50 in Gold.  
Sixth Prize is \$50 in Gold.  
Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Prizes are \$25 each in Gold.  
Eleventh to Twentieth Prizes are \$10 each in Gold.  
Twenty-first to Fiftieth Prizes are \$5.00 each in Gold.

GET AN ANSWER BOOK (it contains 77 double pages) AND 35 PICTURES FREE

You can make ten answers to each picture, yet only need but one copy of each picture.

On the upper page you paste a picture. On the lower section you write from one to ten book titles which you have selected for the picture pasted above.

You save time, labor and expense with an Answer Book, and it helps you to win.

USE THIS ORDER FORM FOR THE ANSWER BOOK.

....., 1913.

Booklovers' Contest Editor,  
The Times-Dispatch:  
Find herewith 80 cents (75 cents at office), for which deliver to me your Answer Book and six certificates, returnable as the pictures appear in the contest for Pictures Nos. 36 to 70.

Name.....

Street and No.....

City..... State.....

Do not send stamps or silver. Send check or money order.